



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans News

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



July 27, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of San Diego Soldier: Staff Sgt. Joshua P. Mattero

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sgt. Joshua P. Mattero, of San Diego, CA:

"Today, we honor Staff Sergeant Joshua Mattero's brave service to our country. He committed himself to protect the United States and our ideals and we must never forget the sacrifices made by Joshua and others serving in uniform. Maria and I offer our deepest sympathies and extend our prayers to his family."

Mattero, 29, died July 24 as a result of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device in Baqubah, Iraq. Mattero was assigned to the 749th Ordnance Company, 63rd Explosive Ordnance Battalion, United States Army, Andrews Air Force Base, MD.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Mattero, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 27, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Palmdale Soldier: Sgt. Travon T. Johnson

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Travon T. Johnson, of Palmdale, CA:

"Maria and I are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our nation's brave soldiers, Sergeant Travon Johnson. He fulfilled a tremendous duty to our country and made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of liberty. Maria and I honor Travon and will keep his family and friends in our prayers."

Johnson, 29, died July 23 as a result of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Sarobi District, Afghanistan. Johnson was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, United States Army, Vicenza, Italy.

In honor of Sgt. Johnson, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 27, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Whittier Sailor: Hospitalman Daniel S. Noble

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Hospitalman Daniel S. Noble, of Whittier, CA:

"Maria and I join all Californians in mourning the loss of Hospitalman Daniel Noble and we extend our sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family and friends. We owe a debt of gratitude to Daniel and his family, and all other service personnel and their loved ones for the sacrifices they make to defend our country. Daniel will be remembered for his courage and bravery in protecting his fellow citizens."

Noble, 21, died July 24 as a result of enemy action while conducting security operations in the Dilaya Province, Iraq. Noble was permanently assigned to 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, United States Navy, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Hospitalman Noble, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 30, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Camp Pendleton Marine: Cpl. Matthew R. Zindars

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Matthew R. Zindars of Watertown, WI:

"Maria and I have the strongest admiration for the men and women of our armed forces who put their lives on the line every day while protecting our country. Corporal Matthew Zindars committed himself to protecting our country and made the ultimate sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers are with Matthew's loved ones and fellow Marines during this difficult time."

Zindars, 21, died July 24 while conducting combat operations in Diyala Province, Iraq. Zindars was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Cpl. Zindars, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 31, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Oxnard Soldier: Spc. Jaime Rodriguez, Jr.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Jaime Rodriguez, Jr., of Oxnard, CA:

"Specialist Jaime Rodriguez's commitment to duty and his efforts to preserve our freedom is an inspiration to all Californians. He joins a proud legacy of heroes who fought for their country and gave their lives to protect

their fellow Americans. Maria and I express our greatest sympathies to Jaime's family and friends during this difficult time."

Rodriguez, 19, died July 26 as a result of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Saqlawiyah, Iraq. Rodriguez was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Army, Fort Stewart, GA.

In honor of Spc. Rodriguez, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



August 1, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Auburn Marine: Cpl. Sean A. Stokes

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Sean A. Stokes, of Auburn, CA:

"Risking his life to protect fellow citizens was a duty Corporal Sean Stokes undertook with pride and honor. Sean's death is a painful reminder of the dangers inherent in protecting our country and his dedicated service will not be forgotten. Maria and I extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and fellow Marines and we will continue to pray for them."

Stokes, 24, died July 30 as a result of wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Stokes was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Cpl. Stokes, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



August 7, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of San Diego Soldier: Spc. Daniel F. Reyes

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Daniel F. Reyes, of San Diego, CA:

"Our hearts go out to the family of Specialist Daniel Reyes as they mourn the extraordinary loss of their loved one. Serving in the armed forces is a noble calling with grave risks. Daniel bravely undertook these risks and we honor his courage and commitment to our country. Maria and I offer our prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time."

Reyes, 24, died July 31 as a result of wounds suffered from enemy indirect fire in Tunis, Iraq. Reyes was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, United States Army, Fort Richardson, AK.

In honor of Spc. Reyes, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



August 8, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Coalinga Marine: Lance Cpl. Cristian Vasquez

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Lance Cpl. Cristian Vasquez, of Coalinga, CA:

"Maria and I have tremendous respect for the members of our armed forces who risk their lives to protect the rights we have as Americans. We join all Californians in grieving the loss of Lance Corporal Cristian Vasquez and are forever grateful for the sacrifice that he made to ensure our freedoms. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cristian's family and friends as they mourn the loss of a dedicated and brave Marine."

Vasquez, 20, died Aug. 2 as a result of wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Vasquez was assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Lance Cpl. Vasquez, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



August 8, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Camp Pendleton Marine: Sgt. Jon E. Bonnell Jr.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Jon E. Bonnell Jr., of Fort Dodge, IA:

"Our country has lost a valiant and heroic Marine. Sergeant Jon Bonnell was committed to the safety and protection of his fellow Americans and we are deeply grateful for his service to our nation. On behalf of all Californians, Maria and I extend our heartfelt sympathies to Jon's family, friends and fellow Marines; we will continue to pray for their comfort."

Bonnell, 22, died Aug. 7 as a result of wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Bonnell was assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Sgt. Bonnell, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



August 14, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Sunnyvale Marine: Sgt. Michael E. Tayaotao

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Michael E. Tayaotao, of Sunnyvale, CA:

"Sergeant Michael Tayaotao's courage is an example of the extraordinary commitment that is displayed every day by our nation's servicemembers. Each time we lose a member of our armed forces, we are painfully reminded of the cost of freedom and democracy. Maria and I extend our condolences and prayers to Michael's family and friends and honor his service in defense of our country."

Tayaotao, 27, died Aug. 9 as a result of wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Tayaotao was assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Sgt. Tayaotao, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



August 16, 2007

Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Santee Soldier: Staff Sgt. Sean P. Fisher

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sgt. Sean P. Fisher, of Santee, CA:

"Losing a member of our nation's armed forces weighs heavily on the hearts of all Americans. Staff Sergeant Sean Fisher's commitment to duty and his effort to preserve our freedom is an inspiration. Maria and I will keep Sean's loved ones in our prayers as they mourn his loss."

Fisher, 29, died Aug. 14 as a result of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed in Al Taqqadum, Iraq. Fisher was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, United States Army, Fort Wainwright, AK. This incident is under investigation.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Fisher, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

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Note to editors: This News for Veterans and previous CDVA news for veterans, news releases, and advisories are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov.